

Bulletin Article
on
GENERAL SUPERVISION

Spring 2003

Initial efforts by licensees to understand and adhere to the regulations for dental hygienists to practice under general supervision led to a host of questions being posed to the Board. The Board responded by issuing a special bulletin dated September 30, 2002 on **Clarification of General Supervision**. That special bulletin is included in this edition of the Bulletin. Since issuing that clarification, three more questions have been addressed by the Board.

- Q. When can the dentist write the order/prescription for treatment under general supervision?
 - A. The order may be written by the dentist at any time within the seven-month period following the last examination of the patient provided that the record of the dentist's last examination supports that treatment under general supervision is appropriate for the patient.

- Q. Can a dentist anesthetize a patient or patients and then leave the office, leaving the dental hygienist(s) to proceed with ordered treatment under general supervision?
 - A. No. Once a dentist initiates treatment on a patient services should proceed under direction.

- Q. Can general supervision be used when there is more than one dentist sharing an office and one dentist will be present?
 - A. Yes. The dentist who is in the office may work with up to two dental hygienists that have been designated to work under direction. Any dentist who has planned to be absent may have up to two dental hygienists designated to be working under general supervision. In this situation, the required emergency procedures for practice under general supervision must assure that a dentist does not supervise more than two dental hygienists at one and the same time.